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entitled (54) PARTITION WALL.

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287538 (45976/64) 81.3
293816 (59805/65) 81.3; 01.1

The following statement is a full description of this invention, including the best method of performing it known to us:

The invention relates to a partition wall for installation in buildings. Partition walls are being used in increasing degree for sub-dividing large spaces or rooms into several smaller compartments. In comparison with fixed, e.g. masonry dividing walls, the subdivision of space becomes substantially more flexible with such partitioning. For example, in dwellings, the number and size of rooms, their arrangement etc. can be altered according to the wishes of different occupants or owners or according to the varying requirements of the same occupant. A significant field for the application of partition walls is in office areas, since in office buildings it is relatively often desired to alter the subdivision of space with alterations in number of staff, office reorganisation, changeover from large office areas to individual offices etc.

Hence partition walls must respond to the requirement that, while retaining maximum stability and durability, they can nevertheless be easily installed, dismantled and re-erected, and that this work can be carried out as far as possible by persons other than special skilled tradesmen supplied by the manufacturer. Partition walls must also have as high as possible acoustic control properties. They must further be capable of being fitted as desired, even with one and the same wall surface, with different opaque cladding materials, with glass and even with doors. With all this, the partition walls should not be excessively time consuming in their manufacture and hence be expensive to instal.

A multiplicity of partition wall constructions is already known. One of these consists of a frame with cover sheets releasably fastened to both sides thereof, where fittings, known in furniture manufacture as "bed fittings", are used for the connection between the frame and the cover

55877/69

sheets (so-called skeleton construction method). However, most known partition walls consist of compact individual elements joined together by tongue and groove joints or the like (so-called elemental construction). In this way there are formed between the cover sheets cavities which can be filled with suitable insulating material for acoustic and thermal insulation. All the partition wall constructions so far known, however, have more or less series deficiencies with respect to one or more of the requirements mentioned above as being imposed on partition walls. One main deficiency common to almost all known partition walls is that their erection and dismantling or an alteration in the form of the wall (replacement of cladding by doors or vice versa, replacement of opaque cladding by glass sheets and vice versa, etc.) are possible only with considerable difficulty and even often only by completely dismantling the whole partition wall and re-erecting it in an altered form.

It is the purpose of the invention to provide a partition wall which avoids these deficiencies in known partition constructions and fulfills all the requirements which may be demanded of a partition wall as stated above. Among these requirements is also the achievement of an attractive appearance corresponding with contemporary taste.

The invention achieves this purpose by providing that the substructure consists of holding battens to be fixed to the floor and ceiling of the room and of posts in the form of metal hollow box sections which can be inserted into or onto such battens, these posts having on at least two opposite sides releasable fastening means, the latter being connectable, for two cover sheets on each side, such posts being displaceable in the plane of the partition with respect to the holding battens and held in a mutually spaced relationship solely by the cover sheets and their fastening means.

To achieve maximum variability by enlarging the possibilities for association and connection, it is desirable that the hollow box sections of the posts be provided on all four sides with fastening means for cover sheets.

Fastening the holding battens to the floor and ceiling of the room in which the partition wall is to be erected, causes no practical difficulty and can be undertaken by most tradesmen, even without any special training in connection with partition wall construction. The connecting of the posts with these holding battens is very simple, since only a loose push-on or push-in connection is involved. In this way, any manufacturing inaccuracies in the individual parts of the partition wall can to a certain degree be compensated. The posts are simple introduced obliquely between the floor and ceiling battens and then set upright so that they engage with both battens. The cover sheets are then fastened on one side to the appropriate post, and the next post, inserted in the same manner, is so moved that the other side of the cover sheets can be fixed on this second post. In this manner the construction of the partition wall proceeds from one side to the other, quickly and without any possibility of error. With certain accessory elements which will be discussed in more detail later, cover sheets of any type, glass sheets, doors etc. can be provided at any place in the partition wall.

As releasable fastening means for the cover sheets to the posts, elastic strips on the posts are especially suitable, into which knob-like attachments, beading or the like fastened to the cover sheets can be engaged. In addition to these fastening means, there may be provided on the posts recesses to accommodate pasking strips, preferably lipped sealing means, and/or for the releasable affixing of accessory

elements, such as shelving, hanging cupboards etc. For attaching sheet glass as cover sheets, there may be provided a frame divided parallel to the plane of the glass, whose two parts, between which the glass sheets lie with interposed masking strips, can be joined together by rivets, screws or the like. One of these frame sections has protruding knob or bar-like portions, so that the whole unit of glass sheet and frame can be fastened simply by pressing it into the post in the same way as an opaque cover sheet, e.g. of wood or plastic, and can also be released in the corresponding manner, e.g. to be changed. For example, the arrangement may be such that the heads of the connecting means for the two parts of the frame serve directly for fastening this frame to the posts. It is also possible to provide beadings directly on the inner portion of the frame and such may be made in one piece with the frame section or may be fastened to the inner portion of the frame by the means joining the frame.

In known forms of partition wall construction, each glass sheet must therefore be set, like a show window pane, separately into the carrier construction and then fastened thereto.

The inner portion of the frame may be provided with a masking strip reaching to about the middle of the partition wall (centre of thickness), so that the space between the two glass sheets is optically screened off from the surrounding inner space of the partition.

To join the partition to the ceiling, the floor and/or to a wall at the side, in further development of the invention there is provided a junction metal profile corresponding roughly to the section of the posts cut down the middle. In the event that this junction metal section is not fixed directly to the floor, ceiling or to the wall adjacent to the partition, but through the intermediary of a holding batten,

there is preferably provided on the outside of this junction piece at least one flange for insertion into the holding batten, so as to achieve a firm and rigid connection between the junction piece and the holding batten. In this case the holding batten and if necessary a part of the junction piece fastened thereto can be covered by cover strips fastened to the holding batten on both sides, e.g. by screws. If the junction piece, on the other hand, is fastened directly to the floor, ceiling or side wall, the cavity and the flanges of the junction piece can be used to accommodate or to press against packing strips of a soft material for acoustic and thermal insulation. For these purposes the elastic bars present on the posts or on the junction metal profiles similar to these latter, may be used.

To anchor the ends of the posts with respect to the floor and ceiling junction sections, U-shaped stirrup pieces of rectangular cross section are particularly suitable. The arms of these can be inserted under tension into two central channels provided on opposite sides of the post profile and formed by elastic strips (and also serving to fasten the cover sheets etc.), while the flanges of these stirrup pieces which protrude beyond the free ends of the posts can in each case be inserted under tension into the channel of the junction section facing the partition wall and which is likewise formed by elastic strips. In this way a connection between the posts and the floor and ceiling junction pieces is achieved with allows displacement of the ends of the posts in the longitudinal direction of the junction pieces but at right angles thereto (and hence at right angles to the plane of the partition wall) creates a firm connection between these parts.

In the drawings are illustrated several embodiments

55877⁶⁹

of the partition wall according to the invention, as well as details of the various possibilities for joining, combining and connecting.

Fig. 1 shows the sequence of operations in erecting a partition wall according to the invention, in front view.

Fig. 2 is a front view of a partition wall according to the invention, in which are combined widely varying partition elements (opaque cover sheets, glass sheets as cover sheets, doors etc.).

Fig. 3 is a horizontal partial section along the line III-III of Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 is a vertical section along the line IV-IV of Fig. 2.

Fig. 5 shows a horizontal section through a further partition wall combination according to the invention.

Fig. 6 is a vertical section through a somewhat different embodiment of the connection of the partition to the floor, and which may also be used for the junction with the ceiling.

Fig. 7 shows, in front view, one of the U-shaped connecting stirrup pieces, used between the ends of the posts and the floor or ceiling junction profiles.

According to Fig. 1, at the start of the process of erection, junction profile battens 15 are fastened to the floor 31 and ceiling 39. At the points where the partition abuts the two limiting walls, wall junction profiles 2 are provided. An opaque cover sheet 9 with its associated post 1 has already been erected. The post 1 at the right end of the cover sheet still remains half exposed and the next post 1 has already been inserted into the junction profile batten 15. The next cover sheet 9 can now be fastened loosely to these

55877/69

two posts by pressure, in which event the post 1 in Fig. 1, shown as still freestanding, is brought into its exactly correct position and the cover sheet is held by the two posts associated with it. The next post, marked as 1a, as shown by the broken lines, is first inserted obliquely between the junction profile battens 15 and then set upright. Thereby it engages with the two junction profile battens, after which, however, it is still displaceable relative to these battens, in the plane of the partition.

Fig. 2 shows how, with the partition wall according to the invention, the most widely varying partition elements can be combined in any manner. The example of a combination illustrated there is naturally not to be taken in any way as limitative. It can readily be seen by a person practised in the art that a practically unlimited number of other combinations is possible based on the principle of construction of the partition wall according to the invention.

In the embodiment illustrated in Fig. 2, the whole partition wall consists of three fields, shown as A, B and C. Between fields A and B on the one hand and fields B and C on the other, are posts 1. The fields A and C are laterally limited by wall junction profiles 2 and connected with other room walls, which may be solid walls or other partitions. Field A of the partition has in its lower portion, the height of which is not equal to half the height of the whole field A, opaque cover sheets, e.g. of wood, plastic or the like. The upper portion has as cover sheet a glass sheet 4. Field B has in its lower portion at the left, an opaque cover sheet 5, and at the right a door 6. In the upper portion of field B is another glass sheet 7 as a "fanlight". Cover sheet 5 and door 6 have different widths. Field C is composed of a glass sheet 8 acting as a fanlight and two opaque cover sheets 9 of equal width.

In the horizontal cross section of Fig. 3 the posts have again the same reference number 1. These posts are hollow metal box sections. They have on two opposite sides fastening means in the form of elastic strips 10, which together with fixed (not illustrated) parts of the hollow box section form continuous channels 11. On the other two sides of the post section are formed, in each case by two elastic bars 10, a continuous channel 11 on each side of the post. The elastic bars 10 and the associated solid profile parts have at their outer free end (not illustrated) protruding portions which, together with any projections provided on these parts to be connected with post 1, form clip or snap connections, i.e. releasable connecting elements. On the two sides of the profiles 1 on which two channels 11 are present, there are provided in addition to these channels 11, recesses 12 to accommodate packing strips 13, preferably in the form of lipped seals.

In the partition wall shown in Fig. 2, the posts which divide the partition into several horizontally adjacent fields A, B and C, are intended to be visually recognisable as separating elements. Here we are concerned with the post 1 at the left and right extremes of Fig. 3. For this reason, on each of these posts there are provided two cover strips 14, U-shaped in section and surrounding the exposed faces. These cover strips have on the inner side of their central cross piece, knob-like or bar like (not illustrated) parts which fit into channel 11 on the front and rear sides of these posts 1. In this way the U-shaped cover strips 14 are releasably connected with the posts 1.

In the embodiment shown in Fig. 3, continuations of the partition wall are joined on to all four sides of the left hand post. On the centre post 1 is attached at the left

an opaque cover sheet, and on the right a door. The post 1 on the right forms on its left side the upright for the door and on its right is joined a further opaque cover piece. Connections with the left hand post 1 are effected by junction metal profiles 15 which correspond roughly with the profile of post 1 cut down the centre. These junctions profiles, in contradistinction to the post profiles, have on their outer sides bars or lugs 16 which, where required, press against soft packings (not illustrated) Provided in the box cavity.

The four junction profiles are fastened to the post 1 (at the left in Fig. 3) in any manner (not illustrated). On the right side of post 1 are connected, by means of the junction profile 15 located at this point and with the interposition of lipped seals 13, two cover sheets 17 of an opaque material between which there is a layer 18 of insulating material which serves both for thermal and especially for acoustic insulation. The cover sheets 17 have near their two vertical side edges, projecting lugs or bars (not illustrated) which on the left side are snapped into the channels 11 of junction piece 15 formed by an elastic bar 10, and on the right hand side, into channels 11 formed by elastic bars 10 of the centre post 1. On the central post 1 there are corresponding packing strips 13.

To the rear face of the left hand post in Fig. 3 is joined, in the same manner as onto the right side of the post, a section of partition which also consists of opaque cover sheets 17 and an intermediate layer 18 of thermal and acoustic insulation material. On the fore face of this left hand post 1, on the other hand, there is joined a section of partition whose cover sheets consist of two sheets of glass 19. Each of the two sheets of glass is held in a frame divided parallel to the plane of the glass sheet. The two parts 20 and 21 of such frame, which are also customarily called glass

holding beads, can be joined together by rivets, screws or the like at the place marked as the centre line 22. The heads of these rivets, screws or the like lying of the inside serve to fasten this two-piece frame 20, 21 to the junction profiles 15. The inner frame sections 20 have cover pieces 23 extending approximately to the centre of the partition wall, by means of which the space between the two glass sheets 19 is substantially screened from the outside. The internally located heads of the rivets, screws or the like which are provided at the point 22 to join the two glass holder battens 20, are fitted into the channels 11 of the junction profile 15 bounded on one side by an elastic bar 10. In this way the whole assembly of the glass holder frame consisting of parts 20 and 21, with the glass sheet 19 held between packing pieces 24, is fastened to the frame of the partition wall (in the present case, the junction profile 15).

To the left side of the left hand post 1 in Fig. 3 there is attached in the same manner a further section A of partition wall, whose cover sheets also consist of glass plates 19.

To the centre post 1 in Fig. 3 there is fastened on the right side a metal profile bar 25 identical with a metal profile bar 25 provided on the right hand door edge, and which in its turn is connected to a junction profile 15 carried by the right hand post 1. The metal profile bars 25 form a door jamb with two door seals 26. The metal profile bar 25 fastened to the right hand post 1 also has door hinges 27. The door itself is shown as 28. In the embodiment illustrated in Fig. 2 it consists of an opaque material. The two metal profile bars 25 on either side of the door are largely masked by frame cover strips 29 and 30. The front frame cover strips 29 are also fitted at the point marked by the mid-line 30, by means of protruding heads or bars, into the channels 11 of the post 1 on the left or of the junction profile 15 on the right. The

of such frame, while rear frame cover strips 30, on the other hand, are fastened and 21

directly to the metal profile bar 25 in any manner (not illustrated here).

To the right hand post 1 in Fig. 3 there is attached only on the right hand side a continuation of the partition wall. Here cover sheets 17 with an interposed acoustic and thermal insulation layer 18 are provided by means of a further junction profile 15 with lipped seals 13 and channels 11 formed by elastic bars 10.

Fig. 4 shows, in vertical cross section, the design of the horizontal separating grooves within field A of the partition in Fig. 2. The junction of the partition and the floor 31 of the room is here effected by a holding batten 33 fastened to the floor with an elastic layer 32 interposed, with which batten a junction profile strip 15 is connected. The two bars 16 of this junction profile strip are inserted into a corresponding groove 34 in the holding batten 33. By this means a tight connection is achieved at this point. Cover strips 35 are fastened on both sides of the batten 33, forming a sort of base. These can be seen also in Fig. 2, where they likewise have the reference numeral 35. In the lowest portion of Field A, as already mentioned at the beginning of the description of the drawings, there are fastened to the posts (not recognisable in Fig. 4) opaque cover sheets 17, between which there is an intermediate layer of an acoustic and thermal insulating material. On the horizontal top edges of the cover sheets 17 are provided intermediate bars 36 whose cross section is identical with that of the vertical posts 1. These intermediate bars 36 are connected with the two neighbouring posts 1 by means of U-shaped stirrup pieces which are described hereinafter in connection with Figs. 6 and 7. Above the intermediate bar 36 there are again provided as cover sheets glass sheets 19 which

55377/69

are held in two-piece metal profile frames 20, 21. These frames are constructed, connected with each other and fastened to the intermediate bar 36 and to the neighbouring posts 1 in the same manner as has been described in connection with the partition wall section which, according to Fig. 3 of the drawings, joins on to the front face of the left hand post 1. Above the glass sheets 19 is a further intermediate bar 36, whose cross section likewise is identical with that of the posts 1. This intermediate bar too is braced by a spreader bar 37 between the two neighbouring posts 1. To this upper intermediate bar profile 36 opaque cover sheets 17 are again fastened in the manner already described.

The connection between the upper end of the partition and the ceiling 39 of the room is, in the embodiment illustrated effected by means of a spring loaded brace. This brace consists of a supporting plate 41 inset into a recess 40 in the ceiling, into which plate a bolt 42 can be inserted, surrounded by a helical spring 43. This helical spring, by means of an intermediate plate 44, presses upon the top of a post 1. Naturally the connection between the top of the partition and the ceiling 39 can also be effected in exactly the same manner as has been illustrated in Fig. 4 for the connection of the bottom of the partition with the floor 31.

In Fig. 5 the same parts have been designated by the same reference numbers as in the preceding figures. Here there are in toto three posts 1. To the left hand post 1 is attached on its left side a metal profile strip 25, which carries hinges 27 and sealings 26 for the door 28. The door jamb cover strips are again shown as 29 and 30. On the right hand side of this left hand post 1 is attached a partition wall field whose cover sheets consist of glass sheets 19 which are fastened in the manner already described to the post 1 by

means of a two-piece frame 20, 21. This frame 20, 21 is again at its right hand side fastened to a junction profile 15 which for its part is fastened to the centre post 1. This post is covered at its front face by a cover strip 14, U-shaped in cross section, and embracing its free frontal face. This cover strip is fitted into the channel 11 of the centre post 1, consisting of two elastic bars 10, by means of knob-like or bar-like projections. To the rear of this centre post 1 is attached a partition section consisting of opaque cover sheets 17 with an interposed insulation layer 18. This section is connected by a junction profile strip 15 to a solid wall of the building or to a partition wall 45 also constructed according to the principle of this invention. On the right of the centre post 1 is attached, again by means of an intermediate profile 15, an opaque covering 17 with an insulating layer 18, which is attached to the right hand post 1 in the manner already described. The right hand side of this post represents the fore end face of a partition. This free end face is again covered by a cover strip 14 of U-shaped cross section. To the front of this right hand post 1 there is attached, again via a junction piece 15, a section of partition wall consisting of glass sheets 19 held in a two-piece frame 20, 21.

Fig. 6 shows, in an embodiment slightly different from Fig. 4, a possibility of joining the bottom (and possibly also the top) of the partition wall to the floor 31 or to the ceiling (not visible in Fig. 6). Here a junction profile 15 is fastened directly to the floor 31, e.g. by screws or similar fastening elements.

In the cavity of this junction profile 15 is a soft packing medium 15a which is pressed firmly against the floor 31 by the bars 16 and guarantees an assured seal even on uneven floors. Into the two lateral channels 11 of post 1

lying in the central plane of the partition wall, there is inserted the two arms 47 of a U-shaped stirrup piece 46 of rectangular cross section. The cross piece 48 of this U-shaped stirrup piece 46 protrudes beyond the lower end of the post 1 and is inserted into the upper central channel 11 of the junction profile 15. The two arms 47 and the cross piece 48 of the U-shaped stirrup piece 46 have a width slightly greater than the internal diameter of channels 11, so that they are inserted under tension into the appropriate channels. These U-shaped stirrup pieces 46 produce a connection between the ends of the posts 1 and the junction profile 15 which allows displacement in the plane of the partition wall but which is completely rigid in the horizontal plane at right angles thereto. A stirrup piece 46 of this type is shown in frontal view in Fig. 7.

The floor junction profile 15 and the lower ends of posts 1 connected therewith are covered by cladding strips 49 which are releasably connected by means of internally located protruding heads or bars in the manner described hereinabove, with two neighbouring posts 1 or with the junction profile 15 itself, which similarly has channels 11 on those sides facing the cover strips 49. At the top in the embodiment shown in Fig. 6, there are attached opaque cover sheets 17 which are connected to the appropriate posts 1 by means of snap connections in the manner already described. In the horizontal separating grooves between the cover strips 49 and cover sheets 17 there are located intermediate profile strips 50 of approximately T-shaped section, and which on either side of their bar 51 have recesses 52 to accommodate packing or sealing means. The packings in these recesses 52, which again may be formed as lipped packing strips, are not shown in Fig. 6.

The claims defining the invention are as follows:-

1. Partition wall for installation in buildings, consisting of a substructure and cover sheets releasably attached thereto on either side, characterised in that the substructure consists of holding battens (15, 33) to be fixed to the floor (31) and ceiling (39) of the room and of posts in the form of metal hollow box sections (1) able to be inserted into or mounted onto these holding battens, and having on at least two opposite sides releasable fastening means, for example snap connections (10, 11), each for two cover sheets (17, 19) on each side, being displaceable with respect to the holding battens in the plane of the partition wall and which are held in mutually spaced relationship solely by the cover sheets and their fastening means.

2. Partition wall according to Claim 1, characterised in that the hollow box sections of the posts (1) have on all four sides fastening means (10, 11) for cover sheets (17, 19).

3. Partition wall according to Claim 1 or 2, characterised in that there are provided on the posts (1) as fastening means elastic strips (10) into which can be fitted knob or bar-like portions fastened to the cover sheets (17, 19).

4. Partition wall according to one of Claims 1 to 3, characterised in that in addition to the fastening means (10, 11) on the posts (1) there are provided recesses (12) to accommodate packing strips (13), preferably lipped packings, and/or for the releasable anchorage of attachments such as, for example, shelves, hanging cupboards etc.

5. Partition wall according to one of Claims 1 to 4, characterised in that, for the attachment of glass sheets (19) as cover sheets, these are provided with a frame (20, 21) divided parallel to the plane of the sheet, the two parts of such frame (glass holder strips) being connected together by rivets, screws or the like (22), and where one section (20)

55877/69

of the frame has protruding knob or bar-shaped parts for fastening to the posts (1). -2 JUN 1969

6. Partition wall according to Claim 5, characterised in that the internally located heads of the connecting means (22) serve to fasten the frame (20, 21) to the posts. -2 JUN 1969

7. Partition wall according to Claim 5, characterised in that, on the inner portion of the frame (20) there is mounted a beading, attached either integrally or by means of the connecting means (22). -2 JUN 1969

8. Partition wall according to one of Claims 5 to 7, characterised in that the inner section (20) of the frame has a cover piece (23) extending to approximately the centre of the partition. -2 JUN 1969

9. Partition wall according to one of Claims 1 to 8, characterised in that for the junction of the partition with the floor and ceiling and/or for the junction with a side wall, there is provided a junction metal profile (15) which corresponds approximately with the profile of the post cut down the middle. -2 JUN 1969

10. Partition wall according to Claim 9, characterised in that the junction profile (5) has on its outer face at least one bar (16) for insertion into the holding batten (15, 33) on the floor (31) and ceiling (39) and/or to be pressed into a soft packing (15a) provided in the cavity of the junction profile (15). -2 JUN 1969

11. Partition wall according to one of Claims 1 to 10, characterised in that in cases where such partition ends with its frontal end face exposed in the room, a cover strip (14) is applied thereto, U-shaped in cross section, surrounding such free end face and preferably of the same material as the opaque cover sheets (17). -2 JUN 1969

12. Partition wall according to Claim 1, characterised

55877/69

in that the cover strip (14) is fastened to the end post (1) of the front face, with the same fastening means (10, 11) as the cover sheets (17, 19). -2 JUN 1969

13. Partition wall according to one of Claims 1 to 12, characterised by metal profile strip (25) to be fastened to a post (1) and which forms a door jamb, where required with door seals (26) and carries door hinges (27), while in the neighbouring post there is fastened the same metal (25) with stop means, where necessary with seals (26). -2 JUN 1969

14. Partition wall according to Claim 13, characterised by a frame cover strip (29) largely covering the metal profile strip (25) outwardly, and which is preferably fastened to the post (1) with the same fastening means (10, 11) as the cover sheets (17, 19). -2 JUN 1969

15. Partition wall according to the Claims 1, 3 and 10, characterised in that for anchoring the ends of the posts (1) with respect to the floor and ceiling junction profiles (15), there are provided U-shaped stirrup pieces (46) of rectangular section, the arms (47) of which can be inserted under tension into two central channels of the post's profile provided on opposite sides and formed by elastic bars, the cross pieces (48) of such stirrup pieces being capable of insertion under tension in that channel of the junction profile facing the partition wall and which is also formed by elastic bars.

16. Partition wall according to Claim 15, characterised in that the floor and/or ceiling junction profile (15) and the ends of the posts (1) joined therewith are covered by cladding strips (49) which are releasably connected by means of internally located protruding heads or bars, with the posts (1) or with the junction profile (15) itself. -2 JUN 1969

17. Partition wall according to one of Claims 1 to 16, characterised in that, in the horizontal separating groove

55877

between a glass sheet (19) on the one side and another glass sheet (19) or other cover sheet (17) on the other side, there is provided an intermediate strip (36) whose cross section is identical with that of the posts (1). - 2 JUN 1969

18. Partition wall according to Claim 17, characterised in that the intermediate strips (36) are connected in the same manner by U-shaped stirrup pieces (46) with the posts (1) as the posts (1) are connected with the floor and ceiling junction profiles. - 2 JUN 1969

19. Partition wall according to one of Claims 1 to 18, characterised in that, in the horizontal separating groove between two similar cover sheets (17, 19) or between a cover sheet (17, 19) and a cladding strip (15), there are provided intermediate profile strips (50) with approximately T-shaped cross section, which on either side of their bar (51) have recesses (52) to accommodate packing strips.

- 2 JUN 1969

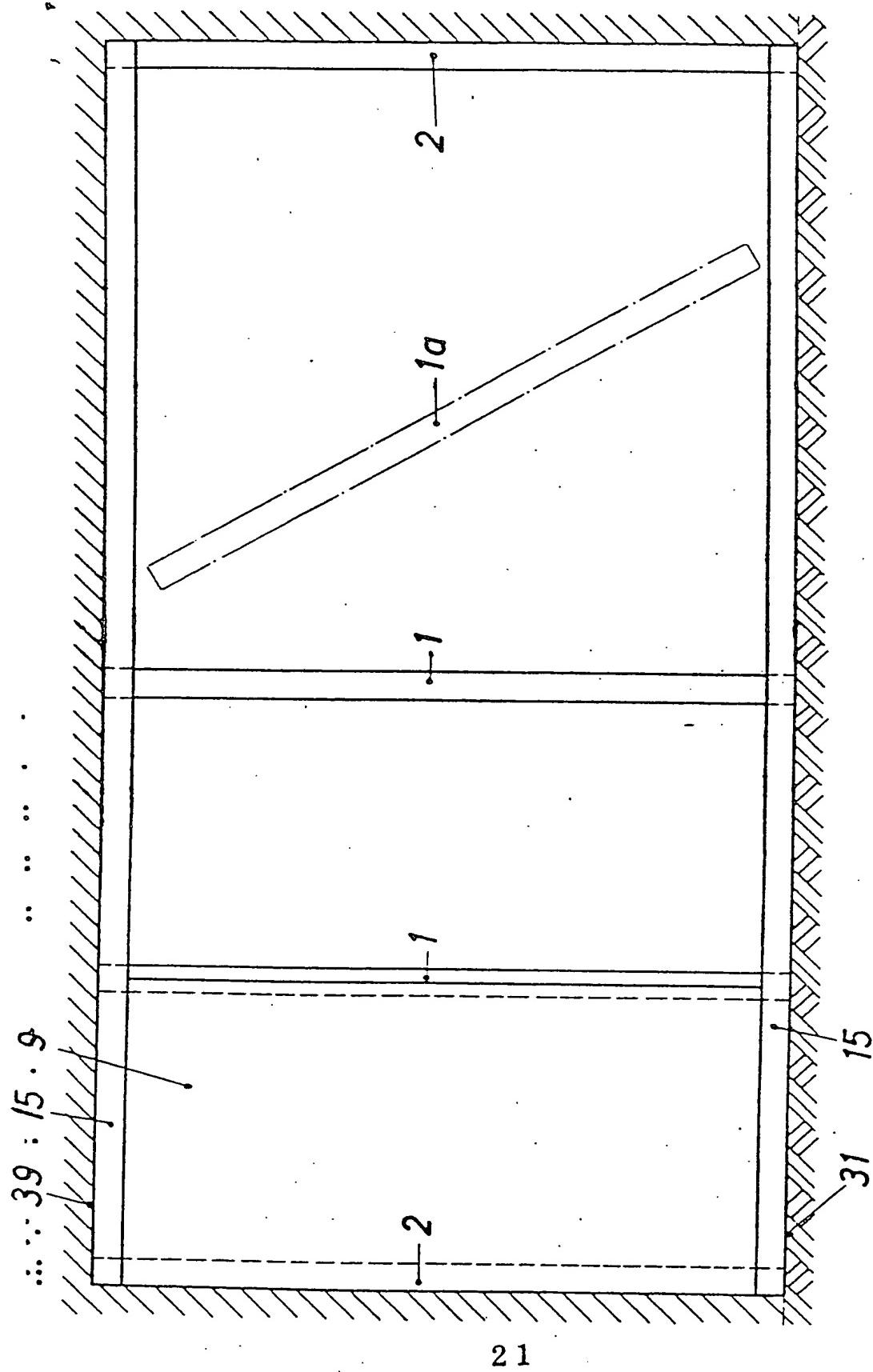
DATED: May 30, 1969.

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By its Patent Attorneys:
PHILLIPS ORMONDE & FITZPATRICK.

O. A. F. Johnson



55877 /69



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Fig. 1

55877 169

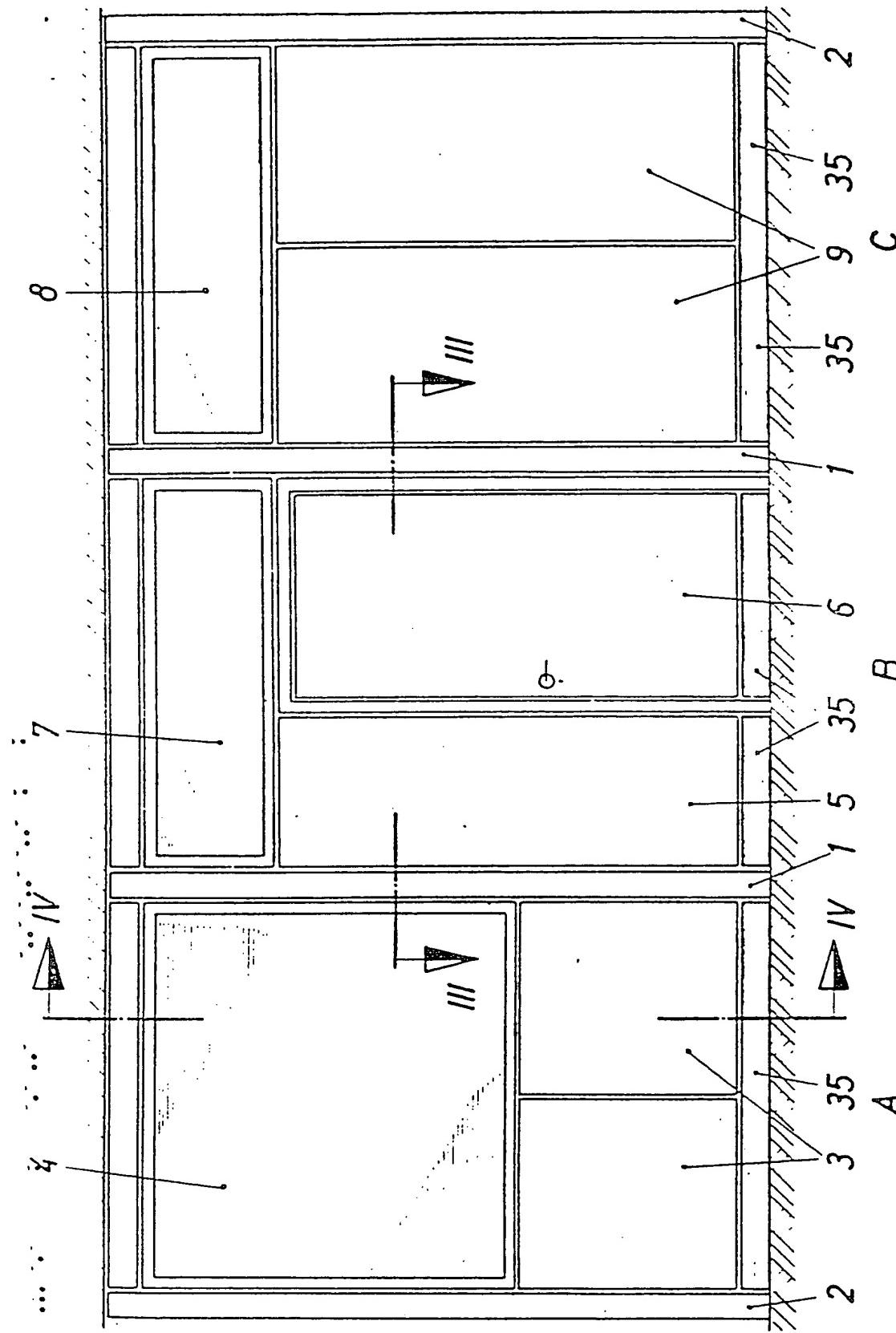
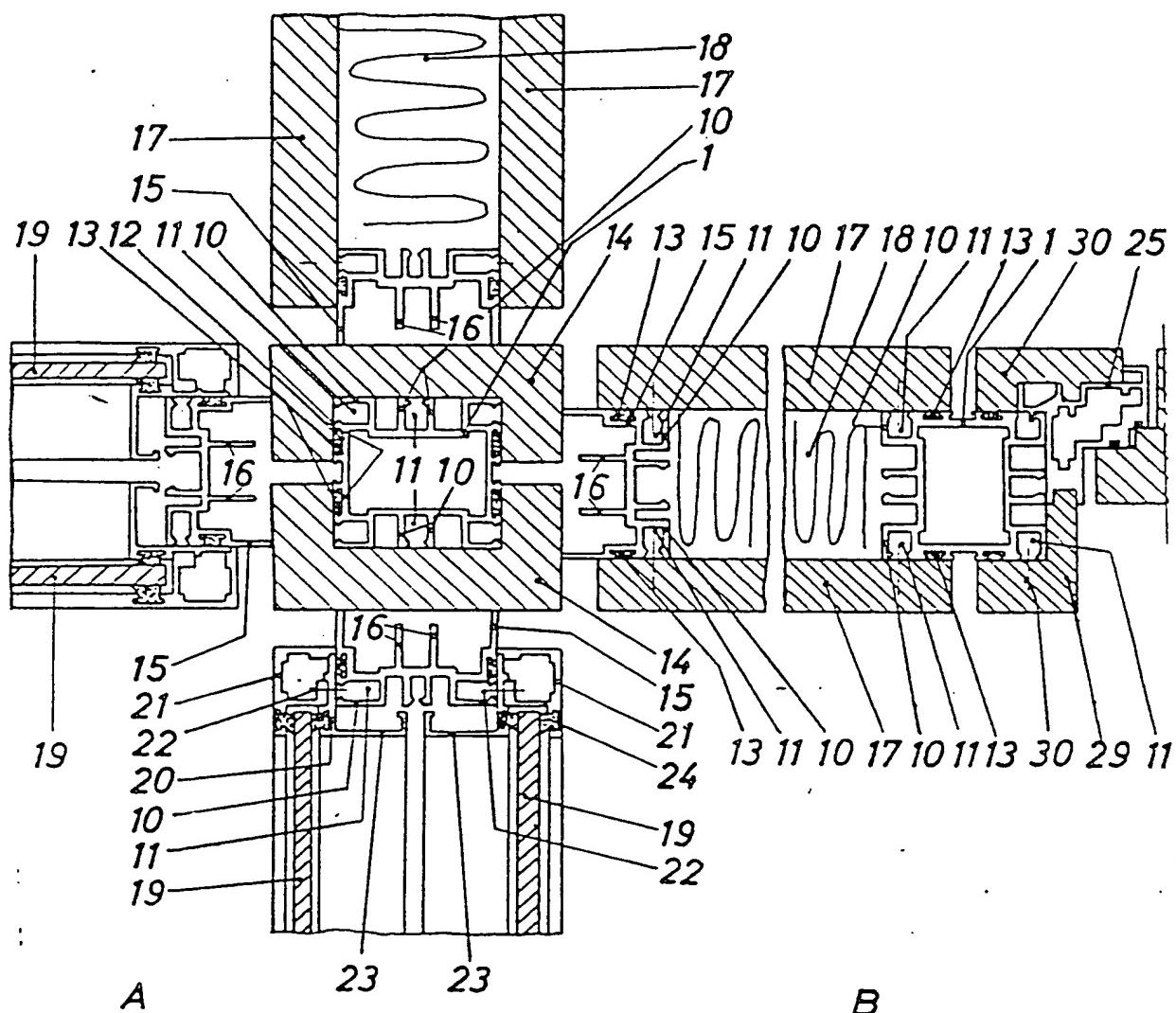


Fig. 2

Fig. 3a

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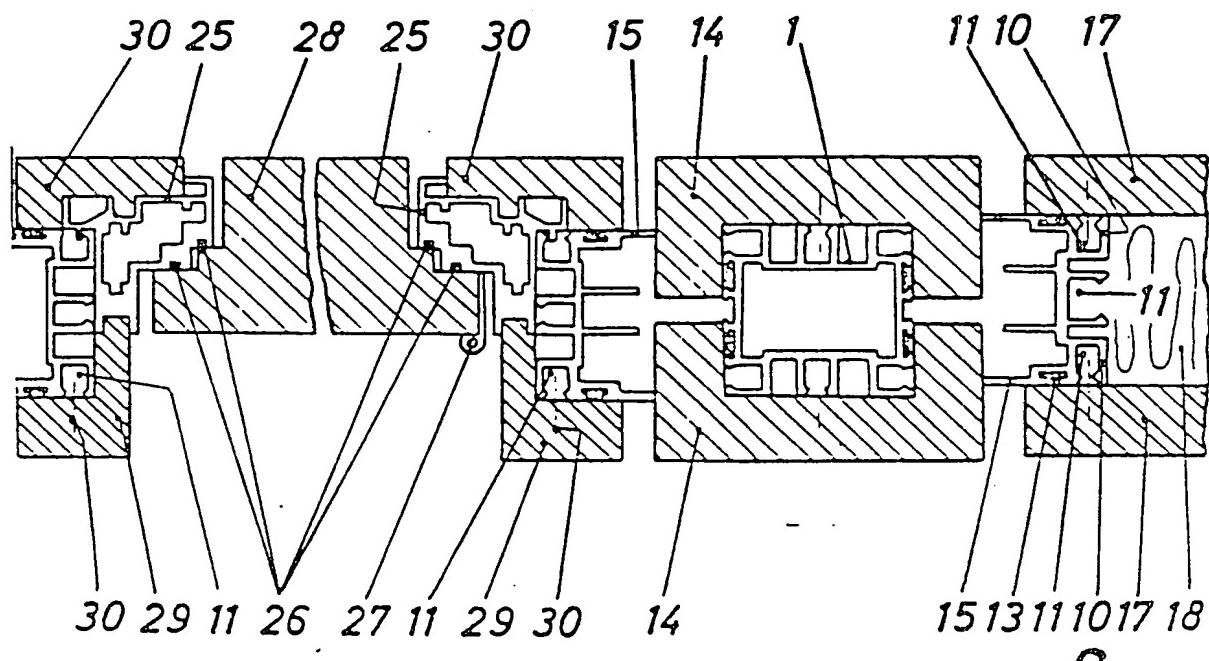


Fig. 3b

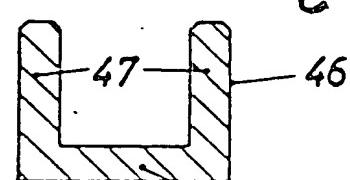
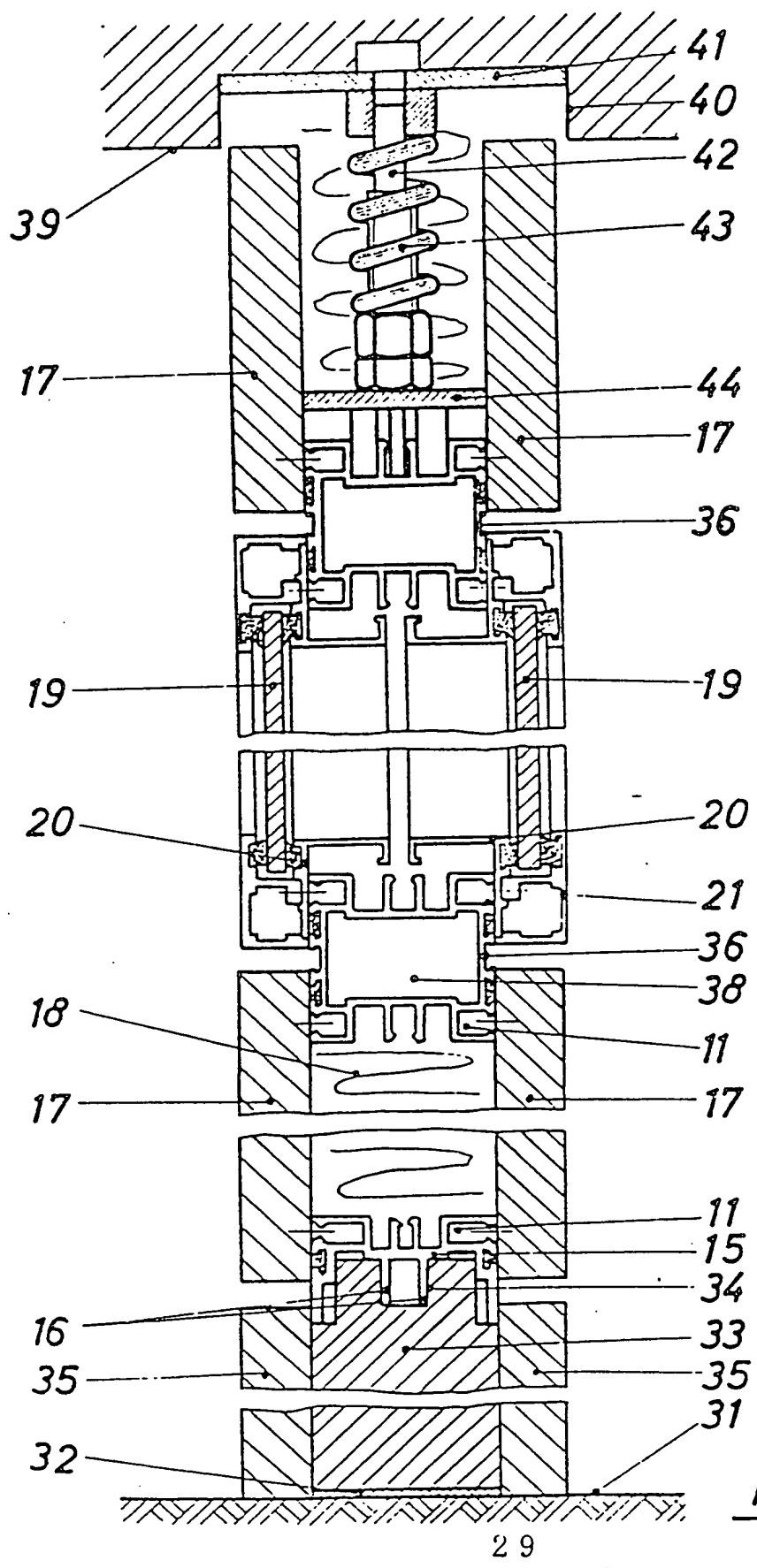


Fig. 7



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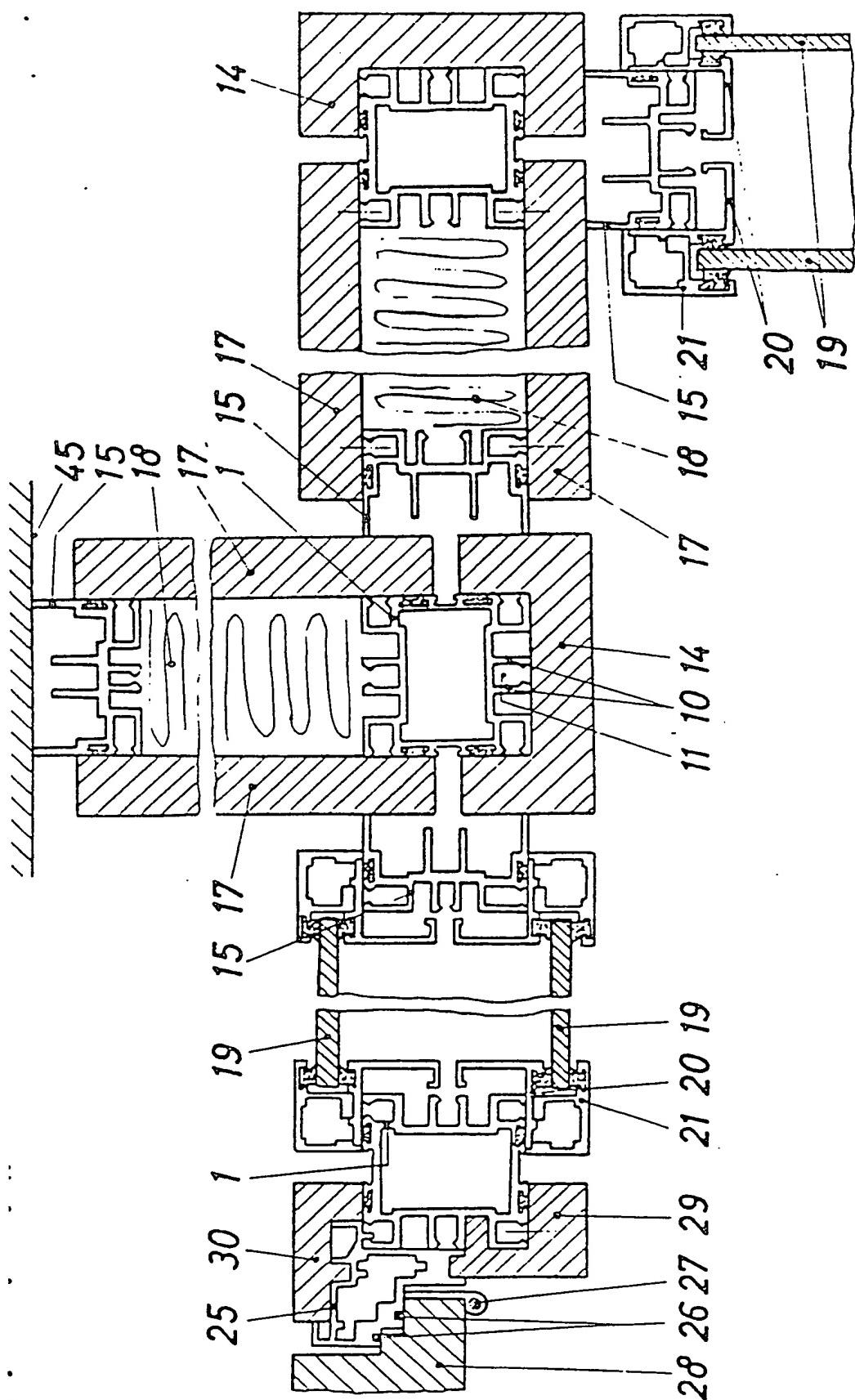
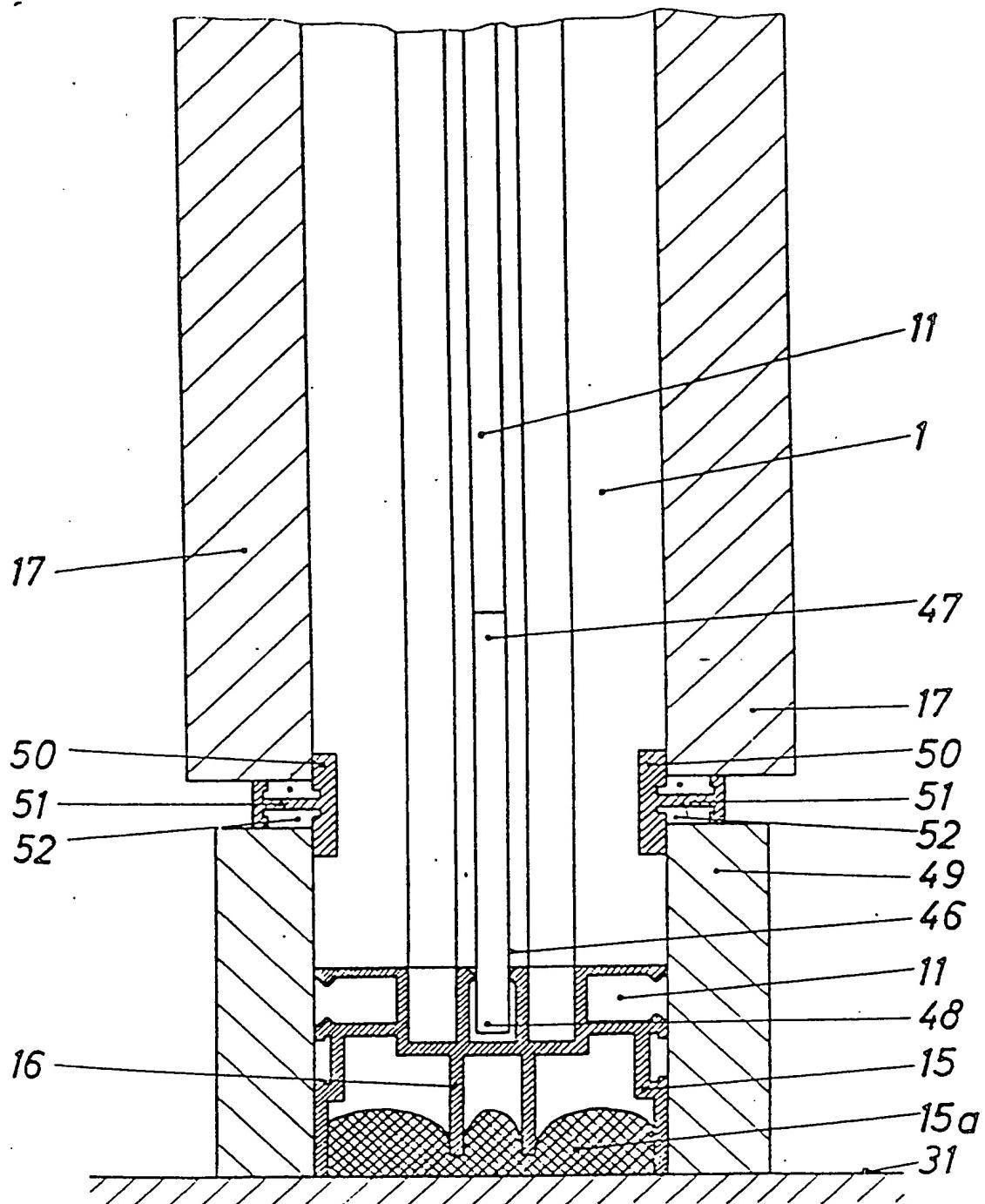


Fig. 5

Fig. 6

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